



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Columbus, OH

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Columbus for a Brownfields Pilot. Columbus is the nation's sixteenth largest City, and has grown significantly over the past two decades. However, this development has moved away from central Columbus, leaving the City's urban core littered with abandoned buildings and former industrial sites. Many of these brownfields exist near the Port Columbus Airport, including the former McDonnell-Douglas plant, the abandoned Conrail storage yards, and the Asarco Chemical site. The resulting high unemployment rate, high crime rate, and a lack of new economic development opportunities led to Columbus being designated a Federal Enterprise Community (EC). The unemployment rate within the EC is 16% and the minority population rate is 65%.

OBJECTIVES

Columbus will administer Pilot funding through the Columbus Brownfields Task Force (CBTF), which was formed in 1996 and is comprised of both public and private sector partners. Pilot funds will be used to perform public outreach and environmental assessments at eight sites within the first year. Funding in the second year of the Pilot will go toward further public outreach activities as well as two Phase II environmental assessments.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Columbus, Ohio

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets eight former industrial sites located near the Port Columbus Airport, and within the City's Federally designated Enterprise Community.

Contacts:

Department of Trade
and Development,
City of Columbus
(614) 645-6427

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 5
(312) 353-3161

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Performing Phase I environmental assessments at the following sites: the former Eleventh Avenue School; Asarco Chemical; Woodland Ridge; Capital Trading Company; I-670 Conrail; Timke; Water Treatment; and Port Columbus Rail Yards;
- Gathering brownfields site-specific information from City agencies, interviews with local residents, and by contacting former and current property owners;
- Producing a strategic plan in print and in video to inform stakeholders and relieve fears interested parties may have about redeveloping brownfields; and
- Performing Phase II environmental assessments on two sites during the second year of the project.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.